

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of processing at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions within an electronic document generated by a word-processing application, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting input to select a continuous target information region within the electronic document;

accepting input to deselect at least one portion of the continuous target information region to form the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions, wherein the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions remain selected; and

accepting input to ~~simultaneously~~ process the at least two selected associated noncontiguous target information regions according to a selected function, wherein the deselected portion is not processed according to the selected function.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the continuous target information region comprises text.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 2, wherein accepting input to select the continuous target information region comprises storing locations of a first begin select delimiter located left of the continuous target information and a first end select delimiter located right of the continuous target information region.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 3, wherein accepting input to deselect at least one portion of the continuous target information region comprises storing locations of a second end select delimiter that is located between the first begin

select delimiter and first end select delimiter and a second begin select delimiter that is between the second and first end select delimiters.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, further comprising accepting input for creating additional associated noncontiguous target information regions.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, further comprising accepting further input to change content of the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic document comprises graphical information.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein the continuous target information region and the at least one portion of the continuous target information region that is deselected are each defined by a rectangle, each rectangle having two delimiters located at opposite corners.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A system for processing at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions within an electronic document generated by a word-processing application, comprising:

an input interface to accept input to select a continuous target information region within the electronic document and input to deselect at least one portion of the continuous target information region to form the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions, wherein the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions remain selected; and

a processor unit connected to the input interface, the processor unit simultaneously processing the at least two selected associated noncontiguous target information regions according to a selected function, wherein the deselected portion is not processed according to the selected function.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 9, wherein the continuous target information region comprises textual information.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 9, wherein the processor unit stores a begin tag and an end tag for each of the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 9, further comprising an output interface to transmit a display that shows the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions in a different manner than the at least one deselected portion of the continuous target information region.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 9, wherein the input interface accepts input from at least one of a keyboard, a speech to text converter, a mouse, a pressure pad and a trackball device.

14. **(Original)** The system of claim 9, wherein the input interface receives input for a positional indicator and the processor unit selects information when the positional indicator is moved in a first direction and deselects information when the positional indicator is moved in a second direction.

15. **(Original)** The system of claim 9, wherein the electronic document comprises graphical information.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for selecting at least two associated noncontiguous information regions of an electronic document that are separated by at least one information separating region, wherein the electronic document is generated by a word-

processing application, the computer readable program code in the computer usable medium comprising:

computer readable program code for causing a computer to accept input that selects a continuous target information region within the electronic document;

computer readable program code for causing a computer to accept further input that selects the at least one information separating region, wherein the at least one of the information separating regions is located within the continuous target information region to form the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions, and wherein the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions remain selected; and

computer readable program code for causing a computer to ~~simultaneously~~ process the at least two selected associated noncontiguous target information regions according to a selected function, wherein the deselected portion is not processed according to the selected function.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A system for processing noncontiguous target information within an electronic document generated by a word-processing application, the system comprising:

input means to accept input for selecting a continuous target information region within the electronic document and input for selecting at least one information separating region that divides the continuous target information region into at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions, wherein the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions remain selected; and

processor means operatively connected to the input means for ~~simultaneously~~ processing the at least two selected associated noncontiguous target information regions according to a selected function, wherein the information separating region is not processed according to the selected function, ~~said processor means operatively connected to the input means.~~

18. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 17, wherein the continuous target information region contains textual information.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 17, wherein the processor means stores a begin tag and an end tag for each of the associated noncontiguous target information regions.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 17, further comprising display means for displaying the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions in a different manner than the at least one information separating region.

21. **(Currently Amended)** A method of processing at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions within an electronic document generated by a graphics based application, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting input to select a continuous target information region within the electronic document;

accepting input to deselect at least one portion of the continuous target information region to form the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions, wherein the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions remain selected; and

accepting input to ~~simultaneously~~ process the at least two selected associated noncontiguous target information regions according to a selected function, wherein the deselected portion is not processed according to the selected function.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A method of processing at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions within a text-based electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting input to select a continuous target information region within the text-based electronic document;

accepting input to deselect at least one portion of the continuous target information region to form the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions, wherein the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions remain selected;

and accepting input to ~~simultaneously~~ process the at least two selected associated noncontiguous target information regions according to a selected function, wherein the deselected portion is not processed according to the selected function.

23. **(Currently Amended)** A method of processing at least two noncontiguous target information regions within an electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting input to select a first continuous target information region within the electronic document;

accepting input to select a second continuous target information to form the at least two noncontiguous target information regions, wherein the first continuous target information region remains selected; and

accepting input to ~~simultaneously~~ process the selected at least two noncontiguous target information regions according to a selected function. ~~first continuous target information region and the second continuous target information region.~~

24. **(New)** A method of processing at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions within two or more documents or two or more applications, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting input to select a target information region within the two or more documents of two or more applications;

accepting input to deselect at least one portion of the target information region to form the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions, wherein the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions remain selected; and

accepting input to process the at least two selected associated noncontiguous target information regions according to a selected function.

25. **(New)** The method of claim 24, wherein accepting input to select a target information region comprises accepting input to move a positional indicator in a first direction and accepting input to deselect at least one portion of the target information region comprises moving the positional indicator in a second direction.